

“Oscar Wilde’s Return,” *The Times* (Philadelphia, PA), 12 Aug. 1883, 1

The Prototype “Bunthorne” Revisits America With His Hair Cut.

Special Dispatch to THE TIMES.

NEW YORK, August 11.

Oscar Wilde arrived by the Steamship *Britanic* [*sic*] this morning, and after exchanging the usual courtesies with the Custom House officials was driven to the Brunswick Hotel. He has a room on the third floor, “about midway between the top and bottom of the house,” as a hall boy described it as he led me up several flights of stairs and apologized for the elevator having temporarily ceased running. Oscar I found looking stouter than when he was last here. He has his hair cut short behind and wears a bang of the most pronounced order. He wore a black sack coat trimmed with heavy braid, check trousers and a white waistcoat. His necktie was of sage-green satin, and a silk handkerchief of the same color was stuffed in the breast pocket of his coat. He said he had had a splendid trip; a first-class lot of fellows were on board and they had had a very good time. He had been induced to take a hand in deck cricket and told with some merriment how he had hit a sixer into the ocean that he had once despised.

His baggage had not arrived at the hotel at the time I visited him and he said languidly: “These expressmen of yours always take one’s baggage for a seaside drive before they condescend to let one have it again.”

In answer to my query as to the object of his visit he said: “Well, you know, I’ve come over to see this play of mine through and then I shall probably return to England, but I may possibly take a trip to Canada.”¹

He said that he was going as soon as he had rested from his journey to see a rehearsal of ‘Vera’ at the Union Square Theatre. The play, he thought, was in excellent hands and he looked hopefully for its success. He will be busy all next week in assisting in directing the rehearsals.

1. Jessica Sykes had invited Wilde to join a party on St. Leonards Island, in Ontario, writing: “I am sure that your play will be successful, but if it should not be it would simply make no difference in my gladness to see you.” (Sturgis, 793, n. 49 / 734, note 280 “He had an invitation” [Sykes’s letter is only quoted in the UK edition].)